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TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(General - Patent Pending)

Docket No.
03-026

In Re Application Of: WALKER et al.

Serial No.
10/790,934

Filing Date
March 2, 2004

Examiner
Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit
Not Yet Assigned

Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING REGULAR ENTRANCE INTO A BONUS GAME**

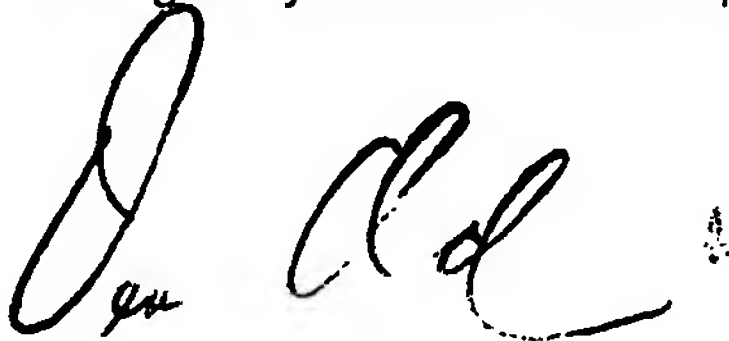
TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Transmitted herewith is:

Information Disclosure Statement (5 pp.);
PTO Form-1449 (2 pp.) and references cited therein (21); and
Return Receipt Postcard.

in the above identified application.

- ☒ No additional fee is required.
- ☐ A check in the amount of _____ is attached.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. **50-0271**
as described below.
- ☐ Charge the amount of _____
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional fee required.



Dated: April 30, 2004

Signature

Dean P. Alderucci
Attorney for Applicants
PTO Registration No. 40,484
(203) 461-7337/phone
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CUSTOMER NO. 22927
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CC:

I certify that this document and fee is being deposited
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first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA
22313-1450.


Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Michael D. Brinton

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

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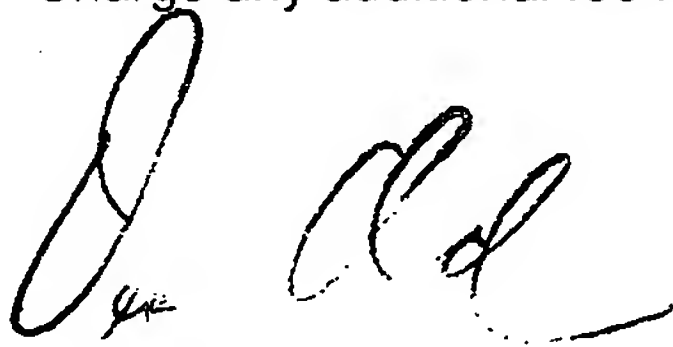
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: WALKER et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date: March 2, 2004

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
PROVIDING REGULAR ENTRANCE
INTO A BONUS GAME

) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
)
) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned
)
) Attorney Docket No: 03-026
)
) **CUSTOMER NO.: 22927**
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as express mail in an envelope with sufficient postage and addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: 04/30/04 By:


Michael D. Brinton

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware that they believe may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a thorough search has been made, an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists. Nor shall the filing of this information disclosure statement be construed as an admission against interest in any manner.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The items listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 may be deemed to be pertinent to the above-identified application and are made of record to assist the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 and to independently ascertain their teaching.

1. ☐ Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the pending U.S. patent applications listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider and independently ascertain the teachings and relevance of those applications with respect to the instant application. Applicants would be pleased to provide the Examiner with a copy of these applications upon request.
2. ☐ For each of the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, a European Search Report from a counterpart European application is enclosed. Such items are marked as reference letter(s): _____
_____.
3. ☐ For each of the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, a concise explanation of the relevance of that item is incorporated in the specification of the above-identified application. Such items are marked as reference letter(s): _____.
4. ☒ No fee is believed to be due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with:

☒ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1), within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application.

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(2), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in §1.491.

- [] 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
5. [] No fee is believed to be due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c), after the period specified in paragraph 4 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance (where there has been no prior final action), and is accompanied by one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 9 below.
6. [] A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) after the period specified in paragraph 4 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance (where there has been no prior final action). The fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is to be paid as set forth in paragraph 10 below.
7. [] A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d), after the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance, but before the payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by:
- a. one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 9 below; and
 - b. this document is to be considered as a petition requesting consideration of the information disclosure statement.
 - c. the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) which is paid as set forth in paragraph 10 below.

8. ☐ A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with:

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(3), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement may render at least one claim unpatentable and is accompanied by the attached Petition to Withdraw Application from Issue;

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(5), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement is to be considered in a Continuation application upon abandonment of the instant application and is accompanied by the attached Petition to Withdraw Application from Issue.

☐ The fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) is paid as set forth in paragraph 10 below.

9. ☐ I hereby certify:

☐ that each item of information contained in the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. A copy of such communication is enclosed.

☐ that no item of information contained or listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

10. ☐ Please accept payment of the fees due as indicated below:

☐ A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee due under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p).

☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$180.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-0271 in payment of the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

11. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Information Disclosure Statement, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0271. A copy of this authorization is attached.


12. ☐ No fee is believed to be due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination.

Respectfully submitted,



April 30, 2004
Date

Dean P. Alderucci
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 40,484
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(203) 461-7300/fax

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION 				Docket Number		Serial Number	
				03-026		10/790,934	
				Applicants			
				WALKER et al.			
				Filing Date		Group Art Unit	
				March 2, 2004		Not Yet Assigned	

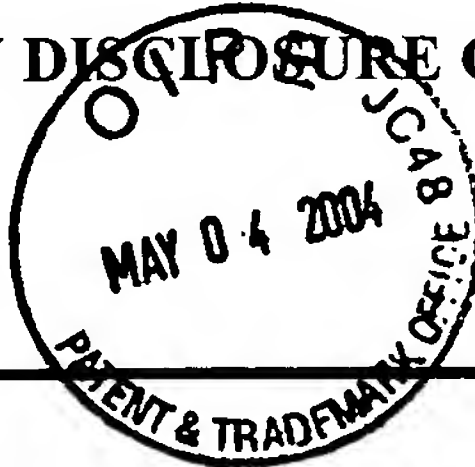
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIAT E
	A	5,178,390	01/12/93	Okada	273	143 R	
	B	5,275,400	01/04/94	Weingardt et al.	273	85 CP	
	C	5,564,700	10/15/96	Celona	463	27	
	D	5,580,309	12/03/96	Piechowiak et al.	463	16	
	E	5,639,088	06/17/97	Schneider et al.	273	138.2	
	F	5,655,961	08/12/97	Acres et al.	463	27	
	G	5,766,075	06/16/98	Cook et al.	463	25	
	H	6,012,982	01/11/00	Piechowiak et al.	463	16	
	I	6,039,648	03/21/00	Guinn et al.	463	16	
	J	US 6,254,483 B1	07/03/01	Acres	463	26	
	K	US 6,270,409 B1	08/07/01	Shuster	463	20	
	L	US 6,343,989 B1	02/05/02	Wood et al.	463	23	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	Translation	
							Yes	No

OTHER DOCUMENTS <i>(Including author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i>		
	M	"Revealing the Casinos Best-Kept Secrets – Hot Slots & Reel Deals", Atlantic City Insider, October 1996, Vol. 1, No. 2.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED:
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION 		Docket Number 03-026	Serial Number 10/790,934
		Applicants WALKER et al.	
		Filing Date March 2, 2004	Group Art Unit Not Yet Assigned
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)			
	N	Cook, Melissa, "Slots", Casino Player, April 1998, pg. 45.	
	O	Website: "Money Time at Casino Windsor", (http //www casinowindsor com/casino/slots/moneytime htm), download date: July 25, 2001.	
	P	Fine, Adam, "Players Network Gaming Guide Article – Big River", The Casino Player, (http //www playersnetwork com/travel/articles/big-river 001,005 html), download date: July 25, 2001.	
	Q	Website: "CASINO CIRCLE! Presents \$\$\$ FREE \$\$\$ Online Slot Tournaments and other Choice Online Casino Games of Chance, Luck and Skill that PAY-OFF!", (http www sidewalkshoppes com/slots_free_tournaments html), download date: July 26, 2001.	
	R	Website: "Casinos featuring Slot Tournaments in Las Vegas – Slot Tournaments and how they work", (http www interexna com/tournaments html), download date: July 26, 2001.	
	S	"A.C. Coin & Slot Staying Power", Global Gaming Business, September 15, 2002, pg. 42.	
	T	Website: "Application Page", American Express, (https //www66 americanexpress com/cards/Applyfservlet?csi=67/11609/b/57/1206203290/...), download date: April 29, 2004.	
	U	Website: "Exercise Bikes", (http www bodyactive co uk/bikes html), download date: April 29, 2004.	
EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED:	
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.			